

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 1 FEBRUARY 2023



### 9.1 DRAFT POSITIVE AGEING POLICY 2023-27

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#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the draft Positive Ageing Policy 2023-27 and endorse its release for community consultation.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Officers have prepared a draft Positive Ageing Policy 2023-27 to guide Council decisions on its roles in creating an age-friendly city.
- 2.2 The draft policy is informed by a strong evidence base, using the WHO Age-Friendly Domains, and broad and diverse input from service users, residents, service providers and Council's advisory committees, including the Older Persons Advisory Committee.
- 2.3 The draft policy sets out six goals to promote positive ageing in the City of Port Phillip. Each goal is supported by a set of commitments of what Council will do. These will guide Council decisions about programs and services that promote positive ageing in our community.
- 2.4 This report seeks Council endorsement to undertake community consultation on the draft policy, prior to Council considering its adoption.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Releases the draft Positive Ageing Policy 2023-27 (Attachment 1) for a five-week period of consultation between 10 February and 20 March 2023.
- 3.2 Notes that a further report outlining the findings of the community consultation and any proposed changes to the draft policy arising from feedback will be presented to Council in May 2023.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The development of a Positive Ageing Policy aligns to Strategic Direction 1 *Inclusive Port Phillip* in the Council Plan 2021 - 2031. This direction seeks to ensure that Port Phillip is accessible and welcoming for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, and that they can access the services and facilities necessary to support their health and wellbeing. A specific initiative under this direction is to prepare a Positive Ageing Policy.

##### **Process to develop policy**

- 4.2 The policy development process was considered by Council on 2 February 2022, with Council noting the proposed scope, process and community engagement for developing Council's new Positive Ageing Policy.



- 4.3 The draft policy has been informed by the WHO Age Friendly Communities and Cities Framework. This is an evidence-based framework that identifies eight inter-related social and environmental domains that impact on health and people's experience of ageing. A background paper outlining the key issues and opportunities relevant to the City of Port Phillip across each of the eight domains was prepared to inform community engagement activities and the development of the policy.
- 4.4 To ensure the policy is reflective of the needs and aspirations of people as they age, Council has sought input from a broad range of services providers, service users and community members, and has used the expertise and experience of the Older Persons Advisory Committee.
- 4.5 Council also established a sub-committee of the Older Persons' Advisory Committee (OPAC) called the Positive Ageing Policy Subcommittee. This group brought members of OPAC together with members of Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee, Multifaith Network and LGBTQIA+ Advisory committee to provide a diversity of lived experience into the development of the policy.
- 4.6 Drawing on the analysis of what was learnt through the community engagement, the WHO Age-Friendly Domains and the first two workshops with the Positive Ageing Policy Subcommittee, proposed policy goals were presented to Council on 4 May 2022 to guide the next stage of policy development.

#### **Policy Content: Goals and Commitments**

- 4.7 The draft policy outlines our aspirations for ageing well and what Council can do to position Port Phillip as an age-friendly city for everyone.
- 4.8 The draft policy applies to the wide range of services and programs that contribute to positive ageing for people aged 60 years and older (and First Nations people aged 50 years and older), and their families and carers in the City of Port Phillip. It reflects that Council has a broad role in creating an age-friendly city that ranges from age-specific services through to designing public spaces that are accessible for all.
- 4.9 The draft policy presented to Council in this report is reflective of:
  - 4.9.1 Outcomes from two additional sessions with the Positive Ageing Sub-committee to consider the role of local government, prioritise Council's commitments and seek their input on the proposed policy.
  - 4.9.2 The application of an intersectional gendered lens to each goal to articulate any gendered issues
  - 4.9.3 Consideration of the Victorian [Ageing Well Action Plan](#) which was released in June 2022
  - 4.9.4 Internal engagement and a review to ensure consistency and relevance of the policy commitments across other related Council documents.
- 4.10 The draft policy sets out six goals to promote positive ageing in the City of Port Phillip. These goals have been refined since they were considered by Council in May 2022 to ensure clarity and ensure alignment with the Victorian Ageing Well Action Plan.
- 4.11 The six goals are supported by twenty commitments of what Council will do. These commitments are designed to guide future Council decisions about programs and services it will provide to promote positive ageing in our community. A summary of the goals and commitments are provided in Table 1 below.



**Table 1: Goals and commitments outlined in the draft Positive Ageing Policy**

<b>Our aspiration for positive ageing</b>	<b>What Council will do</b>
1. All people have access to opportunities for social and intergenerational connections as they age	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide community spaces and support a diversity of community activities and events that promote intergenerational connections, respect for all ages, identities, and backgrounds, and enable older people to remain active in community life</li> <li>2. Use libraries and community centres to support life-long learning (including digital literacy), and provide opportunities for social connection</li> <li>3. Support local community groups and agencies to provide programs that enable older people to remain connected, active and participate in community life</li> <li>4. Connect older people to volunteering opportunities in the local community</li> <li>5. Facilitate diverse local events and activities including as part of the annual Victorian Seniors Festival.</li> </ol>
2. Effective communication and education ensure people are aware of and can access services to maintain their health and wellbeing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Support older people and their families and carers to identify and access services they need through easy access to information, effective communication and enhancing digital capability</li> <li>7. Provide alternatives to online access to Council services</li> <li>8. Provide targeted communications that promote activities and services of interest</li> <li>9. Support older people through education and targeted information to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change</li> </ol>
3. The contribution of older people from all genders, backgrounds, identities, and abilities is respected and valued across our community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Provide opportunities for older people to participate in civic decision-making and ensure their diverse lived experiences are considered in the development of Council policies, programs, and services</li> <li>11. Increase awareness in our community and our organisation of ageism, including participating in the Every Age Counts national campaign.</li> </ol>
4. Accessible, affordable, and quality services are available to meet changing needs to support health and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Determine Council's future role in aged care services in the context of Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents have equitable access to affordable, inclusive, and quality in-home and community</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



Our aspiration for positive ageing	What Council will do
independence as people age	<p>support services that support their independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's role is financially viable and compliant with relevant policies and legislation</li> </ul> <p>13. Enhance the capacity in our local community sector to support older people that experience vulnerability or disadvantage</p>
5. Secure, affordable, and accessible housing enables people to 'age in place'	<p>14. Partner with community agencies to help prevent homelessness, or reduce time spent without a secure home, for older people facing housing stress or loss</p> <p>15. Encourage the development of accessible and adaptable housing in the City of Port Phillip to enable people to age in place</p> <p>16. Work with other levels of government, the private sector and community housing organisations to facilitate the delivery of new social and affordable housing, and pilot new housing models, that are designed to meet people's needs as they age.</p>
6. Well-designed neighbourhoods enable easy access to services, and connection to friends, family, and community life	<p>17. Ensure that public spaces and community buildings are safe and accessible for older people, through application of universal design and crime prevention principles</p> <p>18. Create safe, high amenity walking and bike riding routes, and reduce barriers to crossing streets</p> <p>19. Provide well-designed neighbourhoods that are safe and easy to navigate, and offer accessible parking, public toilets, seating, shade, and quality lighting</p> <p>20. Support and promote transport options which connect older people to social activities, shops, and services.</p>

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

### Consultation and engagement activities to inform the draft policy

5.1 The development of the draft policy has been informed by extensive engagement with diverse stakeholders including:

5.1.1 Providing updates and seeking regular input from members of Council's Older Persons Advisory Committee and inviting members to be part of the Positive Ageing Sub-committee. Throughout the process, OPAC have been invited to provide feedback on iterations of the draft Positive Ageing Policy.

5.1.2 Establishing the Positive Ageing Policy Sub-Committee to help inform the development of the policy. The Positive Ageing Policy Subcommittee consisted



of 8 members of the Older Person Advisory Committee, 3 members of the Multicultural Committee and 1 person associated with the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee. The group has meant four times to identify the focus areas for the policy, prioritise policy commitments and provide feedback on the proposed draft policy.

- 5.1.3 Twenty-five interviews with stakeholder groups and service providers in the City of Port Phillip.
- 5.1.4 Inviting community members to share their lived experience, needs and aspirations through a survey that was distributed widely using both hard copy and online mechanisms. Responses to the survey were sought from diverse and intersectional groups by utilising Council's networks and stakeholder lists and offering translated versions of the hard copy survey (in Polish, Russian and Greek). Of the 359 respondents to the survey there was a good spread of respondents from across the municipality with 95 per cent residing in the City of Port Phillip.
- 5.2 Through the engagement, the following key themes were identified as importance to our community:
  - 5.2.1 **Social participation, respect and inclusion** – we heard the positive ageing meant having respectful and inclusive opportunities to participate in community life.
  - 5.2.2 **Community support and health services** – we heard that the availability of community support and health services was important for wellbeing and independence.
  - 5.2.3 **Housing** – being able to age in place was a key theme with housing stability and support to stay at home raised as important.
  - 5.2.4 **Outdoor spaces and moving around** – we heard that the physical environment provided opportunities for social interaction and connection outside the home and that safe, affordable and accessible transport options was a key enabler.
- 5.3 The Goals and Commitments in the draft Positive Ageing Policy are reflective of these priorities.
- 5.4 Officers recommend that Council release the draft policy and invite community members and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed policy to ensure it is fit-for-purpose prior to its formal adoption. The proposed engagement activities are outlined in section 11 of this report.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Commonwealth Government has announced significant reforms to improve the delivery of aged care services in Australia with changes muted for July 2024. This policy will provide a framework for Council to make informed decisions about its future role in Commonwealth-funded aged care services. It also defines the many other roles Council plays in creating an Age Friendly City.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The goals and commitments in the draft Policy will guide future budget decisions by Council in relation to delivery of services, programs and infrastructure that support an



Age Friendly City. It does not however directly commit Council to expenditure or to delivery of specific services.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 The Positive Ageing Background Paper outlined the issues associated with climate change and positive ageing including the impacts of climate change on older people.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 The Positive Ageing Policy will outline Council's role in providing services and programs for people as they age. It is being drafted alongside a broader project which will review the potential impact of the Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms on Council's delivery of Commonwealth funded aged care services.

**10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

10.1 Development of a Positive Ageing Policy aligns to the Strategic Direction 1 Inclusive Port Phillip in the Council Plan 2021 - 2031. A specific initiative under this direction is to prepare a Positive Ageing Policy.

**11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**11.1 TIMELINE**

11.1.1 Following this meeting, officers will promote opportunities for community members to provide feedback on the draft policy to ensure it is fit-for-purpose during the period between Friday 10 February and Monday 20 March 2023. Key activities will include:

- Promoting the draft policy on Council's Have Your Say website and at Council libraries and Linking Neighbours events.
- Inviting participation from diverse and intersectional groups by using Council's networks (including Community Sector News), providing hard-copy information to older people registered with Council (for example, Seniors Register, Linking Neighbours and in home support programs) and offering and promoting translated versions of key information (in Russian and Greek) to multicultural seniors groups.
- Using scheduled Neighbourhood Engagements Sessions to be held in March 2023 to promote the draft policy and opportunities for community feedback. This is proposed to include sessions at VegOut, South Melbourne Market and Gasworks to access community across the city.

11.1.2 It is anticipated that a summary of community feedback and any revisions to the policy will be presented for Council consideration in May 2023.

**11.2 KEY MESSAGES**

11.2.1 Older people make up a significant, valued and growing proportion of our community, and their needs and experiences are diverse.

11.2.2 This draft Positive Ageing Policy will guide how Council promotes ageing well in our community for people aged 60 years and older (and First Nations people aged 50 years and older), and their families and carers in the City of Port Phillip over the next four years.

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11.2.3 Council has engaged extensively with stakeholders and community members to develop this draft policy. This has included interviews with service providers, a survey of community members and input from Council's older persons, multicultural and LGBTIQ+ advisory committees.

## **12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Draft Positive Ageing Policy 2023-2027 - Final release for consultation** [↓](#)